

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵ O Lord, you know:
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my per-
secutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.
¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of revelers,
nor did I rejoice;
I sat alone, because your hand was upon
me,

for you had filled me with indignation.
¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail?

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:
“If you return, I will restore you,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what
¹⁵ is worthless,

you shall be as my mouth.
They shall turn to you,
but you shall not turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

declares the Lord.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the
wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the
ruthless.”

Epistle: Romans 12:9–21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;
hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another
with brotherly affection. Outdo one another
in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful
in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be
constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs
of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and
do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who
rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live
in harmony with one another. Do not be
haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never
be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but
give thought to do what is honorable in the
sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends
on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved,
never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the
wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance
is mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.” ²⁰To the
contrary, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink;
for by so doing you will heap burning coals
on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21–28

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his
disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and
suffer many things from the elders and chief
priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the
third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him
aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far
be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen
to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance
to me. For you are not setting your mind on
the things of God, but on the things of man.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone
would come after me, let him deny himself
and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For
whoever would save his life will lose it, but
whoever loses his life for my sake will find
it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains
the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what
shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For
the Son of Man is going to come with his
angels in the glory of his Father, and then
he will repay each person according to what
he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are
some standing here who will not taste death
until they see the Son of Man coming in his
kingdom.”



About the Cover: We are taught in this world that glory is found
in elevating ourselves above others. But looking up to Jesus, we are
shown by Him that His elevation upon the cross is the true glory of
God. Taking up our cross means denying ourselves, dying to our sin,
and following Jesus. We follow because He acted first for us in love
and humility through what only He could do in forgiving all of our
sin.

If anyone would come after Me,



Let him deny himself and
take up his cross and follow Me